

# VIEW from the lake

The newsletter of ABIDING PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Budd Lake, N.J.



## From the Pastor

### Why Forgiveness

I am conscious that in my preaching and teaching I tend to talk a lot more about grace than I talk about forgiveness. Grace is a fuller word that extends far beyond the context of any given sin or wrong-doing that needs forgiveness. Grace invites us into the contemplation of wholeness, and the life that opens up once the problem of sin has been overcome. Grace is attractive. Forgiveness, on the other hand, is linked to pain. Whether it requires that we confront the bad that we have done, or the bad that has been done to us, *forgiveness* does not call to us with the same sense of hope and possibility that we hear in *grace*.

But it's important not to ignore the role of forgiveness in our lives and faith. Grace itself is meaningless without forgiveness, without the willingness to first name what is wrong and then to take the difficult steps to overcome the harm done and move on. The season of Lent calls us into exactly this kind of reckoning, and so Lent offers us a good opportunity to invest some time and attention into the nature and practices of forgiveness.

As we walk the four-fold path of forgiveness outlined in our Lenten resource [\*The Book of Forgiving\*](#), we must first address common misperceptions about forgiveness. If we have unrealistic expectations about how forgiveness works, or if we see in the call to forgiveness a threat to our safety, we will not be able to follow this road for our own healing or the healing of our world. In their book, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter Rev. Mpho Tutu outline 5 things that forgiveness is NOT.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World, P. 40

## March, 2020

**April Newsletter Deadline**  
**March 26, 2020**

**Worship: 10:00 am**

**For hospitalization or other  
pastoral care needs, please call  
Pastor Serena at 908-458-3940**



**Daylight Savings**  
**Time Begins**  
**March 8**  
**Turn clocks ahead**

### **OUR MISSION & PURPOSE**

Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supporting and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit.

**Phone: 973-691-9393**

**Website: [www.abidingpeacechurch.org](http://www.abidingpeacechurch.org)**

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## **COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS**

### **Officers**

President	Cindy Pawlo
Vice President	Heather Nilsen
Secretary	Joe Barrett
Treasurer	George Pawlo

### **Council Members**

Gerry Ayotte	Heather Nilsen
Joe Barrett	Cindy Pawlo
Sandy Carlson	Sibylle Schroeder
Howard Corneilson	Nick Senior
Ray Mueller	

### **Ministry Leaders**

Arts & Crafts	Sibylle Schroeder
Christian Education & Youth	Karen Coates
Evangelism	<i>Vacant</i>
Fellowship	Demetria Laird
Finance	George Pawlo
Financial Secretary	Nita Persson
Messengers Dancers	Mary Kasakove
Mutual Ministry	Heather Nilsen
Property	<i>Vacant</i>
Social Ministry	Sibylle Schroeder
Seniors	Sibylle Schroeder
Stewardship	<i>Vacant</i>
Worship & Music	Mary Kasakove

## **OUR STAFF**

### **Pastor:**

Serena Rice  
Cell: 908-458-3940

### **Music Director:**

Ben Schroeder  
benmschroeder@gmail.com

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Christine Strobel  
office@abidingpeacechurch.org  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 5:00 pm—7:00 pm**

*Continued from page 1—Pastor's Column*

- Forgiveness is not easy – it requires hard work and consistent willingness.
- Forgiveness is not weakness – it requires courage and strength.
- Forgiveness does not subvert justice – it creates space for justice to be enacted with a purity of purpose that does not include revenge.
- Forgiveness is not forgetting – it requires fearless remembering of hurt.
- Forgiveness is not quick – it can take several journeys through the cycles of remembering and grief before one can truly forgive and be free.

That last phrase “before we can truly forgive and be free” speaks to why the hard work of forgiveness is worth it. We will spend these long 40 days of Lent wrestling with the task and challenge and promise of forgiveness because truly experiencing forgiveness is key to freedom. This applies whether we need to forgive others, or receive God’s forgiveness, or forgive ourselves. The reality of human life means that there will always be a need for forgiveness. Harm is real and inevitable. But we don’t have to be chained by that harm. The path of faith invites us into the hard work of forgiveness so that we can find the freedom that opens us up to grace.

*Pastor Serena*



It is time to decide if we should continue with our Saturday Breakfast (second Saturday of the month). People who attend seem to appreciate the time together, but attendance has been extremely low. A Saturday Breakfast will be attempted once more on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.

For those who would like to attend this breakfast, please bring a breakfast item to share and let Howard Corneilson (973-584-0307 / hgcorn@optonline.net) or the church office know by Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup>. If this time is inconvenient and you have another suggested time slot, please let Howard or the church office know as well.



## Serving in New Ways

Cindy Pawlo was surprised to find herself elected Church Council President at the February meeting, just as Heather Nilsen was, two years earlier. But both of them were willing. Thanks to them both! They are models of Christian stewards who, when called upon, accepted within themselves their talents and abilities. As Heather has said, "I've been asked, and I've said yes, and I've found it's a very supportive and caring place that lets me try to lead a Bible study or an adult forum or serve as President of the Church Council, and I know the community and God are there to support me through it. And I've found that I can do things I didn't think I could."

Perhaps God is calling you to serve in a new way too. Our congregation now needs a Stewardship chairperson, as I'll be taking a break from that. This person does not need to be on Council. In fact, even a friend of Abiding Peace who is not an official member may serve.

Leading stewardship involves helping us all to be good stewards – caretakers – of everything God has blessed us with: our selves, our time and our possessions. It has usually included helping us consider our involvement at APLC in the spring through our time and talents, and in the fall through our financial support.

However, stewardship is a year-round practice, and new ideas are always welcome. Pastor Serena has introduced some new things herself lately, and is of great support to this chairperson, and I'm willing to serve on the Stewardship Team as well.

If interested, please let Pastor Serena or myself know. Or if you have any new ideas regarding *anything* here at Abiding Peace, please contact any member of Council. This congregation is very open to innovation in service to God and our mission. As Heather has said, "There are always opportunities to try new things and to grow in faith, without the pressure or fear of failure because it's such a supportive place."

Ray Mueller

## Forging Brave Space



Nearly 50 people from ten different faith communities gathered at the Islamic Society of North Jersey for the third *Brave Space Interfaith Gathering* on Sunday, Feb. 16. Over 90 minutes of the

scheduled time (including opening words on the topic of the rise of antisemitism from Rabbi Dani Zucker, followed by small-group and large-group conversation), the gathered community members spoke honestly with the challenge of increasing suspicion and animosity in the public realm, as well as ways that we as the concerned community can make a difference. The group is actively engaged and committed to making a difference, and looking for ways to expand the work beyond the quarterly conversation. The gathering ended with a charge to take the learning of the day back out into the larger community to have intentional conversations to overcome bias and promote community commitment.

The next Brave Space Gathering will be held on Sunday, June 7, from 1:30pm-3:00pm at Temple Hatikvah



## Unfinished Object Night

There is no Unfinished Object Night scheduled for the month of March. See you in April!



## Lent Happenings



### Faith Kitchen Shopping List for March 3

#### "Kielbasa and Sauerkraut"

- ~ 3-4 rings Kielbasa
- ~ 2 large bags of sauerkraut
- ~ 1 bag of chili seasoning mix (1.25 oz.)
- ~ 4 large cans of whole potatoes

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, March 1st.

Let me know if you can come to help cook and serve or call with any questions 973-691-1910.

With gratitude,

Sibylle Schroeder  
Social Ministry



### Lenten Dinner Church

Abiding Peace's annual Lenten Dinner Church begin on Wednesday, March 4. Each Wednesday at 6:30 pm members and friends join together for an informal dinner. Please sign up to bring your favorite soup recipe, a salad, or a main dish on the bulletin board in the narthex. A brief Lenten service will be held at 7:00 pm. Please plan to make these meaningful gatherings a part of your Lenten discipline.

## Thank You Corner

Thank you to everyone who gave such heartfelt and thoughtful interviews for the Abiding Peace video project. I had the privilege of getting to watch a rough-cut version of the four short video pieces that Ray is putting together from these interviews, and even without the background music and professional touches that I know Ray will add, the videos moved me to tears. The love that this community has for each other and for our mission shines through. Thank you!

~ *Pastor Serena*

Thanks to all who were interviewed for the Abiding Peace videos. You'll each be in at least one of the four short videos to be shown at church in the weeks after Easter, so stay tuned! ~ *Ray Mueller*

*If you would like to express a "Thank you" in next month's newsletter, please send a brief paragraph to Christine ([chstrobel@optonline.net](mailto:chstrobel@optonline.net)) by March 26.*

## Sunday Scripture

### March 1

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### March 8

Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

### March 29

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### March 15

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### March 22

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

## March Birthdays

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 7 Sudhakar Kandikatla | 14 Serena Rjce          |
| 8 Sibylle Schroeder   | 15 Christine Blackburne |
| 11 Marco Ponce, Jr.   | 19 Carolyn Blackburne   |
| Tyler Rjce            | 28 Karen Coates         |



### Pastor Serena's March Schedule

Week of February 24—March 1

- Wednesday, Feb. 26: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Mar. 1: 8:30 am—1:30 pm

Week of Mar 2—Mar 8

- Tuesday, Mar 4: 1:00 pm—3:00 pm (off-site)
- Wednesday, Mar 5: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Mar 8: 8:30 am—1:30 pm

Week of Mar 9—Mar 15

- Monday, Mar 9: 7:00 pm—8:30 pm
- Wednesday, Mar 11: 10:30am—8:00pm
- Sunday, Mar 15: 9:00am—1:30pm

Week of Mar 16—Mar 22

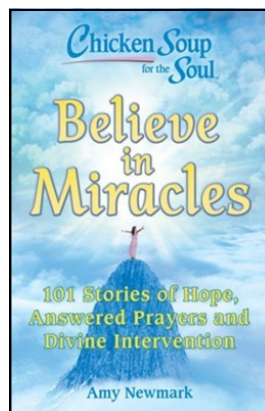
- Monday, Mar 16—Tuesday, Mar 17: 2:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- Wednesday, Mar 18: 4:00 pm—8:00 pm
- Thursday, Mar 19: 7:30 pm—9:30 pm
- Sunday, Mar 22: 9:00 am—1:30 pm

Week of Mar 23—Mar 29

- Wednesday, Mar 25: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Mar 29: 9:00 am—1:30 pm

Week of Mar 30—April 5

- Wednesday, Apr 1: 10:30 am—9:00 pm
- Sunday, Apr 5: 9:00 am—1:30 pm



Congregation member Diana Perez is pursuing an inspirational writing career and has recently been published in the latest “Chicken Soup for the Soul” edition, “Believe in Miracles.”

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
973-691-9393

or have someone call for you, if you are hospitalized.

Because of the HIPAA privacy laws, the church is **not** notified when you are admitted to a hospital, in order to protect your privacy. The only way we will know if you are in the hospital is if you or someone close to you lets us know. Thank

**Please clip this article and keep it handy!**

### Chili Cook-off

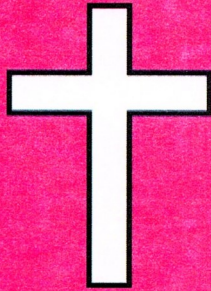
We had 3 winners for this year's chili cook-off. In honor of Leap Year and the Summer Olympics, the winners were each awarded medals: Sibylle (Gold), Robert (Silver), Ken (Bronze).



### Seniors Tea Party



The Seniors Group spent their afternoon tea party planning activities for 2020!



# Faith, Hope & Love:

Building Safer & More Welcoming  
Congregations for LGBTQ+ Youth

Education | Storytelling | Resources | Community | Worship

*For Teens, Pastors, Youth Leaders, Parents,  
and other Congregational and Community Leaders!*

Saturday, March 21, 2020

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
910 Marne Highway  
Hainesport, New Jersey 08036

**\$20/person**

Registration opens January 2020

[www.njsynod.org/faith-hope-love](http://www.njsynod.org/faith-hope-love)

- Lunch Included
- Childcare provided for ages 5 & under
- Scholarships available for NJ Synod members.

**NEW THIS YEAR!**

*After Party*

*4-7pm*

(for high school and college  
age youth)

*Music \* Games \* Food  
Conversation \* More!*

**\$5 /person**



# MARCH

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND A REPLACEMENT IF YOU CANNOT SERVE.**

MARCH	GREETER	USHER	LECTOR	ASSISTANT MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	POWERPOINT
<b>1</b>	Howard Corneilson	Cindy Pawlo	Roy Persson	Sibylle Schroeder	~ Howard Corneilson ~ Maria Kearney	None
<b>8</b>	Pat Scalora	Doug Laird	Joe Barrett	Mary Kasakove	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Cindy Pawlo	None
<b>15</b>	Ken Schwier	Pat Scalora	Evelyn Bowden	Sandy Carlson	~ Maria Kearney ~ George Pawlo	None
<b>22</b>	Carol Biunno	Doug Laird	Ray Mueller	Joe Barrett	~ Heather Nilsen ~ Mary Kasakove	None
<b>29</b>	Howard Corneilson	Cindy Pawlo	Sue Stirrat	Ray Mueller	~ Cindy Pawlo ~ Pat Scalora	None

**COUNTERS:** **1:** Howard Corneilson **8:** Nancy Ayotte **15:** George Pawlo **22:** Howard Corneilson  
**29:** Nancy Ayotte

**ALTAR GUILD:** Sandy Carlson

**BREAD BAKING:** Jeanne Scalora



Keep These Friends in Your  
Heart & Prayers

**Keep these friends in your hearts and prayers:**

Those who are sick or in need: Sharon Puglia, Juli Pullara, Rich Apgar, Michael Krush, Judy Wayman, Tamsin Skeels, Don Larsen, Sandy Olson, Col. Phillip E. Miller, Jim Kosiorek, Randy Esposito, Pat Linn, Eleonor Braun, Jim and Patricia Porter, David Coyne, Megan McGuire, Donna Woody, Gillian George, Mary Kathryn Laird, Eastlyn Rodriguez, Richard Biunno, Gertrude Price, April Inglin, Isabella Adams, Laura Dennis, Michael, Rachel and Cora Pawlo, Gayle Pinkham, Sophia Hawthorne, Baby Jackson Cook, Kacie Schmidt, Gregg Clark, Susan Jacob, Luke Mueller, Lynn Peterson's family and friends, Alexandra Heinz, Chris Mastakas, Pat & Jeanne Scalora, Robert Buckley, The Canon family, Howard Gentler, Susan Nigra, Cindy Behler, Elisabeth and Otto Schroeder, Jim Tangen, Amelia Krusch, Gary and Linda McCabe, Rolf Zwicker, Stefan Kozak

Those who are expecting: Kimberly Defreitas, Christina & Chris Belfiore

# MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>1ST SUNDAY/LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Matthew & the Path of Forgiveness	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Faith Kitchen	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>7</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>8</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY/LENT</b> 8:45 am Worship & Music Committee Mtg. 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Telling our Stories	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Purim Service at Temple Hatikvah	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Church Family Breakfast 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>15</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY/LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Naming our Pain	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7:30 pm Council Meeting (All are welcome)	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Faith, Hope, and Love: Building Safer & More Welcoming Congregations for LGBTQ+ Youth @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Hainsport, NJ (until 3:30 pm) 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>22</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY/LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Sunday School 11:30 am Offering Forgiveness	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 pm AA Mtg. 6:30 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>27</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.	<b>28</b> 8:00 pm NA Mtg.
<b>29</b> <b>5TH SUNDAY/LENT</b> 9:30 am Music Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Renewing or Releasing Relationships	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				